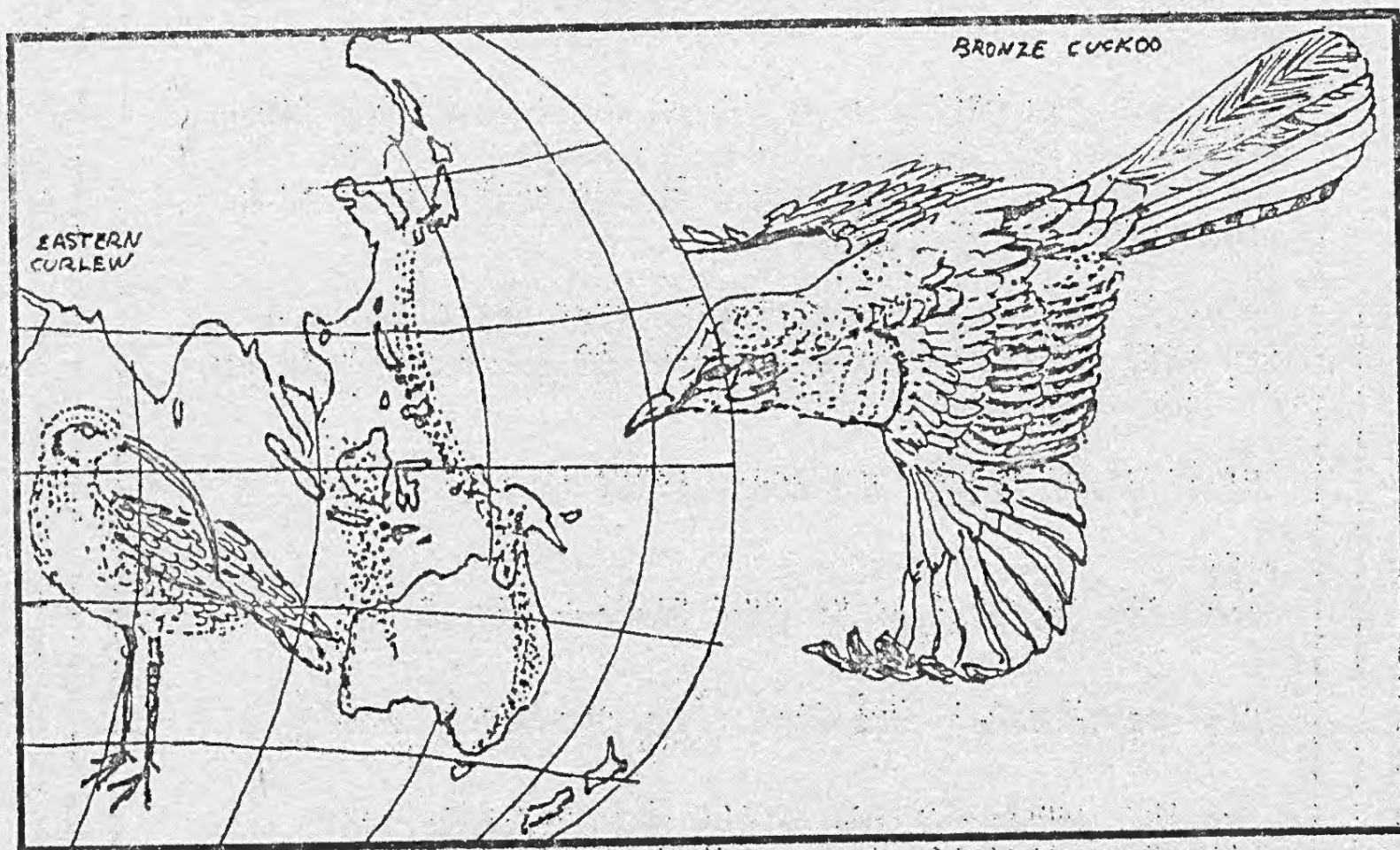


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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BALLARAT EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET

APRIL 1980

- Meeting .. 28th MARCH : Speaker Mr. G. Binns - "Some Applications of Bird Watching".
- Meeting .. 2nd MAY : Speaker Mr. P. Day - "Volcanoes in the Ballarat Area".
- Excursion . 29th MARCH : Half-day - "Autumn Orchids in the Brisbane Ranges". Leader Lindsay Pink.
- Excursion . 30th MARCH : Half-day - "Alan Sonsee's Garden, Springmount". Half-day excursions leave Crocker's corner at 1.30 p.m.



President : Mr. R. BORCH Phone 42 8630.
Vice-President : Dr. F. HARRAP Phone 30 1651
Secretary : Miss H. BURGESS Phone 3 2210.
Treasurer : Mr. S. REYNOLDS Phone 32 7721
Editor : Mr. J. NETHERWAY Phone 32 7296

Meetings, as specified, are held in the Administration Building of the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, commencing 8 pm.

EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS' Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS, BALLARAT. AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS. OR AT 1.30 pm FOR HALF DAY.

LETTER TO THE (Ex) EDITOR

Dear Bet,

How can we thank you enough for all the work you have put into editing our club newsletter over these four years. From humble beginnings as a news-sheet it has grown into a little monthly journal of which we are proud - and all this due to you. Your organisational ability and endless patience with your sometimes reluctant, sometimes forgetful reporters have worked wonders, and you have managed to perform the most useful function of all - getting members really involved in club activities by having to contribute to the paper.

You have also been a warm and generous committee member, always willing to give your time, hospitality and help, and mindful of all the little things that needed to be remembered in the newsletter.

We don't envy the new Ed. taking over after you, but we are very thankful Jack's prepared to do it and wish him all the very best.

Our love and thanks and best wishes to you.

from

Club members and fans of your reading public

Vale Betty Gray; Salvette Jack Netherway

- At the Annual Meeting of the FNCB a minute was recorded expressing the club's appreciation of the services of Mrs. Betty Gray as editor of the monthly newsletter.

NOTES ON MR. ERIC BOUND'S TALK
TO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB, BALLARAT

FRIDAY 7th MARCH, 1980

An Annual Meeting special as we were treated to a historical, geographical, social and photographic record of Mr. Bound's visit to Groote Eylandt. His interest in flora and fauna of that distant island was very evident by the number of excellent slides shown. His climbing to precarious heights to photograph the osprey and its young in the nest illustrated also his skill and patience. Just as holidays spent with friends always give a greater dimension to a stay because of personal contacts, so Mr. Bound was able to share with us his understanding of the needs and concerns of the Aborigines of Groote Eylandt.

We in the south-east of Australia have few reminders of colonization or exploration other than by English people. Groote Eylandt has its history with early Dutch explorers and traders and island people from the Macassars who fished and traded annually in the Gulf of Carpentaria for bêche de mer.

To add to the interest of this northern island off the east coast of Arnhemland is the influence of multi nationals and large mining consortiums on the natural history and the challenge to the way of life and "time dreaming" of the Aborigines. So, too, are the requirements of white Australian workers and their families living in tropical Australia expecting modern conveniences and facilities to offset the inconvenience of isolation and climatic conditions.

The climate has played a big part in assisting the Aborigines in their dealings with the mining company, for large royalties for the manganese mined have been obtained without fuss or ill feeling. Except for the land being mined and so owned by the company GEMCO, the Aborigines have total rights to the rest of the island and permission must be given before anyone can travel over the island.

Members were shown how these tropical waters are a fisherman's paradise; the great bower bird's adaptation to cultivated gardens and proximity to buildings was seen with clear close-up photographs of this bird and its 3 foot bower. Other slides included green tree ants, rainbow bird, masked plover, grevillea and acacia species, lemon breasted fly catcher, shells, mangroves, crabs, termite mounds, striped heron (?), extensive waterways and natural habitat.

Margaret Tonkin.

PHOTOFLORA '80

St. Paul's Hall, Victoria St.

Monday, April 14th at 8.00 p.m.

Ninety minutes of Nature Pictures from the
Eleventh Photoflora Competition.

FLOWERS

PLANTS

BIRDS

WILDLIFE

presented by
the Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria
with the
Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat

Members are asked to help stock a trading table at Photoflora.
Winifred Wadell's book "Wildflower Diary" will be on sale.

Congratulations to Mrs. MARGARET ROTHERHAM for having her slide
SENECIO gregorii, Queensland accepted for photoflora.

We are really looking forward to seeing the slide and wish
Margaret continuing success with her photography.

Members are reminded that there will be a display depicting
activities of the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat at the
Ballarat Community Education Centre from 28th April to May 9th.
There will be a showcase for specimens.

Mr. A.C. Beaughlehole, President of the Western Victorian
Conservation Committee has written requesting support for the
creation of a Scientific Reserve in the Point Danger area,
Portland. The Proposal for this Reserve will be tabled at
tonight's meeting.

GRACIUS JOSEPH BRIONOWSKI

On permanent loan for safe keeping to the Ballarat Reference Library are 3 bound volumes of the Brionowski Birds of Australia, a collection of water colour drawings rivalling John Gould's paintings of Australian Birds.

Gracius Joseph Brionowski 1837-1913 was born 7th March, 1837 at Weibin in Poland, his family owning large estates in what was then Russian Poland. Educated at home he entered Munich University to study languages and art subjects. Conscripted into the Russian Army he evaded service by escaping to Germany and later England where he heard much of Australia so again moved on. Arriving in Portland, Victoria he later found work on a sheep station and subsequently took up land in the Mallee. As the work was not congenial or profitable he found his way to Melbourne where he married Jane Smith, daughter of a whaler captain.

Working hard at his paintings he conceived the ideas of "Art Unions" with his paintings as prizes. In his quest for subscribers he travelled as far as Cooktown, Nth Queensland.

In 1880 he soon became established in Sydney and was commissioned by the Education Department to paint birds and mammals for school use. Largely because of Brionowski's work the N.S.W. Government began to take interest in the preservation of birds.

When he completed his commission he began compiling his "Birds of Australia" in which he was greatly assisted by his wife. The paintings were issued in weekly parts.

At Campbelltown he again took up farming but later retired to Sydney where he died on 12th April, 1913.

He was survived by his widow, 6 sons and one daughter.

Peter L. Fry.

W.V.F.N.C.A. CAMP-OUT - PORT CAMPBELL 11th - 13th APRIL

All of those attending, remember SANDSHOES!

Those booked in at the Sherbrooke River Lodge, remember bedding.
Mattresses are provided.

ON THE BEACHES

The large wing tabled at our February meeting has been identified by the Museum as belonging to the Shy (or White-Capped) Albatross (*Diomedea cauta*), the largest of the mollymawks.

Although Gould League's "Birds of Victoria" lists this as a Very Rare species, Serventy ("Australian Seabirds") says it is perhaps the most common albatross in Victorian and Tasmanian waters. It is Australia's only breeding albatross. The colony on Albatross Rock, Bass Strait was discovered by Matthew Flinders in 1798. According to Serventy, the colony had about 670 nests in 1960.

- Another birdband was found on a Crested Tern near Apollo Bay in February. Unlike the previous bird which had been around for nearly 17 years since being banded off Tasmania, this tern had been banded only two months previously, in December at Stonyell Island in the Coorong, South Australia.
- A banded penguin was found in March and details are awaited with interest.
- Interesting observation on March 16 included five Mongolian Dotterels on a beach near Apollo Bay; a Cape Barren Goose feeding on pastures by the Barham estuary (believed to be the first local sighting); and a young Gannet, dead, but with magnificent plumage in its huge wings.
- A large egg, as long as the palm of one's hand and heavily patterned with hieroglyphics markings, has been confirmed from photographic record as a Crested Tern's egg. The egg appeared on the beach at Apollo Bay at Christmas but needless to say was not around for long. Crested Terns have been visiting there in large numbers with flocks of 600-700 birds recorded. Summer visitors disturbed their favourite beach roost but the rocks at Hayley's Reef off Marengo have become white with their lime.

Margaret Rotheram.